

DRYADOPHIS STUART, 1939 (REPTILIA, SERPENTES) : PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1533

By Hobart Smith (*Department of Zoology and Museum of Natural History,
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.*)

1. In 1939 Stuart (*Copeia* 1939(1) : 55) proposed the name *Dryadophis* as a substitute for *Eudryas* Fitzinger, 1843, preoccupied by *Eudryas* Boisval, 1836 (Lepidoptera). Since then the name *Dryadophis* has consistently been used for the genus of snakes to which belongs its type and the type of *Eudryas* Fitzinger, namely *Coluber boddaerti* Sentzen, 1796 = *Dryadophis b. boddaerti* (Sentzen), by monotypy. The works using the name include a monograph of the entire genus (Stuart, 1941, *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan*, no. 49) and a number of regional checklists or monographs, as of Mexico and Costa Rica.

2. However, as pointed out by Dunn (*Caldasia* 3, 1944 : 204), *Dryadophis* is antedated by *Mastigodryas* Amaral (*Mem. Inst. Butantan* 8, 1934 : 157-158), type by monotypy *M. danieli* Amaral (*op. cit.* : 158), a synonym of *Coluber boddaerti* Sentzen. Another specific name *M. unicolor*, was used in the summary of the paper (p. 159), but is apparently a *lapsus* for *danieli*, perhaps being an earlier-selected manuscript name for the species. The name *unicolor* has no nomenclatural status and therefore *Mastigodryas* remains monotypic. Amaral's names *Mastigodryas* and *danieli* have not been used, as valid names, since their proposal, so far as I am aware.

3. Since *Dryadophis* has enjoyed universal acceptance since the date of its proposal, and since that acceptance includes several works of broad, essentially monographic scope as well as numerous less authoritative usages, it would be distinctly in the interest of nomenclatural stability to preserve *Dryadophis* in lieu of the senior name *Mastigodryas* which by automatic provisions of the Code would be the proper name for the genus now known as *Dryadophis*.

4. Accordingly the Commission is here requested.

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Mastigodryas* Amaral, 1934, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the generic name suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology ;
- (3) to place the generic name *Dryadophis* Stuart, 1939 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Coluber boddaerti* Sentzen, 1796, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ;
- (4) to place the specific name *boddaerti* Sentzen, 1796, (in Meyer, *Zool. Archiv.* (2) : 59), as published in the binomen *Coluber boddaerti* (type-species of *Dryadophis* Stuart, 1939) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.